

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for communicating with a computer management device, the method comprising:

defining one or more vendor specific commands for communicating with the management device, said vendor specific commands conforming to a first communication standard; and

transmitting the one or more vendor specific commands to the management device over a communications link conforming to a second communication standard.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

emulating a device on the communications link, the emulated device conforming to the second communication standard;

receiving the one or more vendor specific commands at the management device;

determining whether the one or more vendor specific commands are destined for the emulated device;

in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are not destined for the emulated device, utilizing the received vendor specific commands for communicating with the management device.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising utilizing data contained in the received vendor specific commands to configure the management device in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are not destined for the emulated device.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein configuring the management device comprises setting a network address of the management device based upon the contents of the received vendor specific commands.

5. The method of Claim 2, further comprising in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are not destined for the emulated device:

determining the coordinates of a user input cursor on a remote computer system; and

returning the coordinates in response to the received vendor specific commands.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the first communication standard comprises the SCSI standard, the second communication standard comprises the USB standard, and wherein the emulated device comprises a USB mass storage device.

7. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 1.

8. A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of claim 1.

9. A method for communicating with a computer management device, the method comprising:

emulating a mass storage device at the management device, the mass storage device made available on a communication link conforming to a first communication standard;

receiving at the management device one or more vendor specific commands directed toward the mass storage device, the vendor specific commands conforming to a second communication standard and transmitted to the management device over the communication link conforming to the first standard;

determining whether the received vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the emulated mass storage device or for communicating with the management device; and

in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the management device, utilizing the received vendor specific commands for communicating with the management device.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the first communication standard comprises the USB standard and wherein the second communication standard comprises the SCSI standard.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the emulated mass storage device comprises an emulated CD-ROM device on a USB communication link.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein utilizing the received vendor specific commands comprises utilizing the vendor specific commands to configure the management device.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the management device:

determining the coordinates of a user input cursor on a remote computer system; and

returning the coordinates in response to the received vendor specific commands.

14. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the method of claim 9.

15. A computer-controlled apparatus capable of performing the method of claim 9.

16. A system for managing a computer, the system comprising:

a computer supporting a first communication link that conforms to a first communication standard, the computer operative to transmit one or more vendor specific commands that conform to a second communication standard over the first communication link; and

a management device connected to the computer via the first communication link, the management device operative to:

emulate a mass storage device on the first communication link,

to receive the vendor specific commands from the computer directed toward the mass storage device,

to determine whether the received vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the emulated mass storage device or for communicating with the management device, and

to utilize the received vendor specific commands for communicating with the management device in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the management device.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein the first communication standard comprises the USB standard and wherein the second communication standard comprises the SCSI standard.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the emulated mass storage device comprises an emulated CD-ROM device on a USB communication link.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the management device is further operative to utilize the received vendor specific commands to configure the management device.

20. The system of Claim 18, wherein in response to determining that the one or more vendor specific commands are intended for communicating with the management device, the management device is further operative to:

determine the coordinates of a user input cursor on a remote computer system; and to  
return the coordinates in response to the received vendor specific commands.